

What is claimed is: (for U.S.)

1. A grass collecting apparatus for directing grass clippings cut by a mower unit to a grass catcher, the apparatus comprising:

5 a grass collecting duct for guiding the grass clippings from the mower unit to the grass catcher, the duct having an outlet portion leading to the grass catcher defined by an upper plate, right and left side plates and a bottom plate;

10 a gate-shaped frame disposed in a boundary between the outlet portion of the grass collecting duct and an opening of the grass catcher; and

a swing mechanism for swinging the grass catcher between a grass collecting position with the opening of the grass catcher being opposed to the gate-shaped frame and a grass discharging position with the opening of the grass catcher being directed downward;

15 wherein the bottom plate provided in the outlet portion is arranged to receive the grass clippings falling off an area around the gate-shaped frame when the grass catcher is in the grass collecting position, and the bottom plate provided in the outlet portion is displaced to a position with a surface thereof being tilted when the grass catcher is swung from the grass  
20 collecting position to the grass discharging position.

2. A grass collecting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the grass catcher is supported by the gate-shaped frame through the swing mechanism.

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3. A grass collecting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the bottom plate is supported by the gate-shaped frame to be displaceable.

4. A grass collecting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the  
30 bottom plate is swingable by the swing mechanism as interlocked to

swinging of the grass catcher from the grass collecting position to the grass discharging position.

5. A grass collecting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the  
5 gate-shaped frame has a passing-through opening, through which the opening of the grass catcher in the grass collecting position communicates with the outlet portion of the grass collecting duct.

6. A lawn mower including a grass collecting apparatus extending  
10 along a fore and aft direction of a vehicle body for directing grass clippings cut by a mower unit to a grass catcher, the grass collecting apparatus comprising;

a grass collecting duct for guiding the grass clippings from the mower unit to the grass catcher, the duct having an outlet portion leading  
15 to the grass catcher defined by an upper plate, right and left side plates and a bottom plate;

a gate-shaped frame disposed in a boundary between the outlet portion of the grass collecting duct and an opening of the grass catcher; and

a swing mechanism for swinging the grass catcher between a grass  
20 collecting position with the opening of the grass catcher being opposed to the gate-shaped frame and a grass discharging position with the opening of the grass catcher being directed downward;

wherein the bottom plate provided in the outlet portion is arranged to receive the grass clippings falling off an area around the gate-shaped  
25 frame when the grass catcher is in the grass collecting position, and the bottom plate provided in the outlet portion is displaced to a position with a surface thereof being tilted when the grass catcher is swung from the grass collecting position to the grass discharging position, and

wherein the mower unit is mounted forwardly of rear wheels, the  
30 gate-shaped frame is disposed at a rear portion of the vehicle body, and the

grass catcher protrudes rearwardly from the vehicle body.

7. A lawn mower as defined in Claim 6 further including a vertically  
movable link mechanism for vertically moving the gate-shaped frame with  
5 the grass catcher relative to the vehicle body.

8. A lawn mower as defined in Claim 6, wherein the gate-shaped  
frame is fixed to body frames.

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